

# INVESTIGATING JOE RABER'S STORY

## BODY OF WILLIS WOODS WHO WAS KILLED EIGHT YEARS AGO MAY BE DISINTERRED

Raber Says Woods Was Slain by Jesse Kerns Whom He Also Accuses of Helping to Kill Luther Raber

## WOODS' FATHER IS HERE IN CONFERENCE

Tells Sheriff Conaway at the Time of Son's Death There Was Suspicion that He Was the Victim of Foul Play—Kern Unknown to Authorities.

County officers are busy today investigating the story told by Joseph Raber yesterday just before he was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of his brother Luther Raber, accusing a man named Jesse Kerns of having caused the death eight years ago of Willis Woods who at the time was believed to have been struck by a train and killed accidentally.

Thornton Woods, father of Willis Woods; J. O. Parrish, an uncle, and Olley Randall, a friend of the family, all of near Farmington, came to Fairmont today at the request of county officers and participated in conference between Sheriff C. D. Conaway and Joseph Raber in the county jail regarding the matter.

R. A. Loar, of Clarksburg, attorney for Joseph Raber, called the attention of the county officers yesterday to Raber's charge that Woods had been murdered by Kerns, alleging that an investigation of this matter might result in disclosing evidence corroborating Joseph Raber's allegation that the murder of Luther Raber was committed by Kerns and Clarence Raber, another brother of Joseph Raber, who is now alleged to be a fugitive from justice.

Attorney Loar has requested that the body of Willis Woods be exhumed for the purpose of determining the cause of his death.

According to the story of Joseph Raber as related by Attorney Loar, about eight years ago the barn of a man named Frank Sturms was burned. Luther Raber was convicted of arson in connection with the destruction of this building and sentenced to a term in the penitentiary, Willis Woods having furnished much of the evidence which resulted in the conviction.

Jesse Kerns, according to the story, who was an intimate friend of Joseph Raber, in order to avenge Raber, shot Woods through the head with a high powered rifle in a lonely spot near the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad tracks and then battered the head of his victim with a heavy iron plate used for fastening railroad rails together, so as to hide the bullet wounds.

Kerns, according to the story, revealed to Attorney Loar yesterday and today, then fled and Woods, his alleged victim, was found unconscious and taken to a hospital in Fairmont where he died without regaining consciousness. There was not enough suspicion or foul play at the time of Woods' death to cause the county officers to order an autopsy, and the case was forgotten until the disclosures by Joseph Raber to his attorney and to the county officers yesterday.

Mr. Loar now asks that the body of Willis Woods be exhumed for the purpose of determining if there are bullet

wounds in his skull as the finding of bullets or bullet wounds in the skull would corroborate in part at least the defense offered in court yesterday by Joseph Raber.

Sheriff Conaway and other county officers are aiding in every way possible to clear up the mystery involved in Joseph Raber's story and to find out what has become of Clarence Raber and the Jesse Kerns who are accused by Joseph Raber. Clarence Raber is known to the county officers but his present whereabouts are unknown. No man by the name of Jesse Kerns is known to the officers in Marion county.

At the courthouse today Thornton Woods, the father of Willis Woods, told Sheriff Conaway that he never believed that his son was struck by a train and killed accidentally. Mr. Woods said that near the unconscious man was found a fish plate showing traces of hair and blood and that the victim was lying on the track which Mr. Woods declared would not have been the case if he had been struck by a train.

## ALLEN VARNER'S JOY WENT TO HIS HEAD

So Constable Harry Connor Gathered Him in for Safe Keeping.

After being cleared of complicity in the murder of Luther Raber, Allen Varner, of Mannington, celebrated the event so hilariously last evening that he was arrested by Constable Harry Connor and fined \$1 and costs by Justice of the Peace M. R. Musgrove on a charge of drunkenness.

Varner and Frank Dunn had been arrested shortly after the murder of Luther Raber as the result of statements made by Joseph Raber, but released shortly. Yesterday after Joseph Raber had been sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of his brother he said that the accusations he had made against Varner and Dunn were without foundation.

Varner was in the court house when Raber was sentenced and he was so happy on account of his vindication that he went at once to his home in Mannington, loaded up with liquor and returned to Fairmont in such a condition as to make it necessary for the constable to take him in charge.

## Opportunity of a Lifetime is Christmas Prize Carnival

**SPECIAL VOTE COUPON.**  
Until 9 a. m. Saturday, December 4, the largest extra vote offer of The West Virginian's Christmas Prize Carnival is in effect. Until that date 100,000 Extra Votes will be given for each \$15 worth of subscriptions sent in by or for any girl or boy who is entered in the prize carnival. There is no limit to the number of extra votes that may be secured by any contestant. This offer is positively the largest vote offer of any kind that will be made during the carnival, and it will positively close at 9 a. m. Saturday, Dec. 4.

is making that very thing possible for its young friends who take part in the Christmas Prize Carnival.

Any one of the prizes will not cost the winner a single penny in cash—just spare time getting subscriptions for the West Virginian and clipping voting coupons out of the paper. It does not cost anything to enter the Prize Carnival either, and those who do not get enough votes to win a prize will be given a cash commission on the subscription they secure. Isn't that a fair proposition?

**Get Busy Now.**  
If you have already been nominated in the Prize Carnival, now is your time to get busy. The best vote offer of the campaign is in effect until December 4, and there is no limit to the number of extra vote clubs you may make up. If you happen to be one of the bright girls and boys whose name has not been sent in to Prize Carnival Headquarters, send in your name at once and get started in the race for one of the fine prizes.

So far there has been very little real effort made by any of the girls and boys to secure votes. Those

## This Paper, The Times And Manley

The West Virginian is too busy printing the news to take time to answer each false statement made by The Times. If The West Virginian attempted to answer each false statement published by our neighbor, it would not get much else accomplished. It is sufficient to say that every one of the statements made by The Times reflecting on The West Virginian for its attitude on the post office situation is false, and more than that The Times knew each statement was false when they published it.

As Postmaster Manley is a Democrat and a large owner of The Times, it was not expected that The Times would be fair to either the employees of the Post office or The Times readers and it was not. The West Virginian has published both sides of the case as it has been received and therefore has been fair to both sides and to its readers also.

The West Virginian does not retract a single statement and is willing to be held responsible for its attitude on the post office question, which is simply this: That for the good of the post office and for the benefit of the public Postmaster Manley should resign and a more acceptable Democrat be appointed to his office. The names of those who direct the policy of The West Virginian are to be found at the head of the editorial page, and they readily can be located any time they may be wanted on a charge of conspiracy which The Times intimates is to be made, or any other charge.

## Buffalo Road Will Soon Be Opened

The new paved road in Mannington district, from Mannington to the head of Buffalo Creek, called the Buffalo Road, will be opened to the public before Thanksgiving. This is the completion of twelve miles of paving done in the district by the Fretch-Allen Contracting Company. The Buffalo Road was opened some time ago but had to be closed again because of some settling of the ground, making relaying of the brick and grouting with concrete necessary in some places. The completed road is 12 feet wide with concrete curb.

The first two miles out of Mannington are of brick and the last three miles, of concrete. The grade is excellent all the way and it was necessary to construct several concrete bridges and culverts. J. J. Allen has been in charge of the work for the Fretch-Allen Company.

## Y. M. C. A. Directors Will Meet Tonight

The regular monthly meeting of the Y. M. C. A. Directors will be held this evening at the Y. M. C. A. In the Commercial Bowling League the Monongah Glass Company team meets the West Virginians tonight.

Basketball practice was started last night and a number of former stars and old men were out. Indications point to a faster team this year than of any season past. Physical and mental condition of the team is excellent and the prospects, and the enthusiasm among the players and fans runs high.

## PAPERS IN CASE OF PERRY D. BURTON

Mistake Made by the Inspector Cost Clerk-in-Charge His Job.

Considerable light is thrown upon the methods by which the recent removals in the Fairmont post office were brought about by an examination of the papers in the case of Perry D. Burton, the clerk in charge at the Monongah.

They seem to show gross carelessness if nothing worse. They are as follows:

(Case No. 317597)  
A. J. Knight, Inspector.  
Washington, D. C., Sep. 30, 1915.  
Perry D. Burton,  
Post Office Clerk,  
Fairmont, W. Va.

Sir:—In connection with the investigation of the case of above number, you are hereby supplied with the following charges against you, to which you will make reply within five days and show cause why you should not be removed from the service.  
FIRST—It is charged that you participated in a clerk-carrier Civil Service examination held in the city of Fairmont, W. Va., May 23, 1908, and that you were materially assisted in such examination by some person, either directly or indirectly, especially on the subject of spelling, arithmetic and geography.

SECOND—It is charged that you made a false statement in affidavit

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## THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICES IN FAIRMONT

Joint Exercises on Both Sides of the River.

## INTERESTING PROGRAMS

Rev. L. E. Oldaker Unable to Preach Because of Illness in Family.

Thanksgiving will be observed in the churches of this city in the customary manner on Thursday. The churches of the East Side will unite in a Thanksgiving service to be held in the Diamond street M. E. Church and the West Side churches will unite in a service to be held in the First Baptist church.

Dr. Clarence D. Mitchell, pastor of the Christian church, will preach the sermon in the First Baptist church and Rev. John Brown, pastor of the First Ward Baptist church will preach in the Diamond street church. Rev. L. E. Oldaker was to have preached in the Diamond street church but owing to the illness of a child he will be unable to do so.

The following are the programs as they will be observed in the two churches:

**First Baptist Church.**  
Organ Voluntary—Mrs. J. Minor Dunham. Doxology—Rev. C. E. Goodwin. Invocation. Gloria Patri. Responsive singing—Rev. J. C. Broomfield. Duets—"Hark, Hark, My Soul"—Mrs. C. H. Nell. Mrs. R. M. Abbott. Prayer—Rev. R. T. Webb. Hymn—"Onward Christian Soldiers." Offering for the Anti-Tuberculosis League. Anthem—"Te Deum." Schilling. Choir. Sermon—Dr. C. D. Mitchell. Hymn—"America." Benediction—Rev. H. Q. Stoetzel.

**Diamond street M. E. Church.**  
The Union Thanksgiving service to be held in the Diamond street M. E. Church will begin promptly at 10 A. M., and the order of service will be as follows:

Organ Voluntary. Hymn No. 701. Methodist Hymnal. Prayer—Rev. L. E. Oldaker. Anthem by the combined choirs of East Side Churches—"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come." Scripture Reading—Led by J. B. Workman. The offering for the Anti-Tuberculosis League. Reading of the Thanksgiving Proclamation. Anthem by Choir. Sermon—Rev. John Brown, of Palatine Church. Hymn 702—"America." Benediction.

## Heavy Demand for College Pennants

Decorating will start in Fairmont today and continue through till tomorrow. When the town is painted in Orange and Black and Old Gold and Blue, when the city is one mass of flags and bunting of all colors and every single individual in the old town happy, then will begin the hostilities at South Side Park.

Hartley's store sent for a supply of flags of both schools and the shipment has arrived. Whether this amount will take care of the wants of the city is a matter of conjecture. The flags have been going in hundreds since they arrived and there is likelihood of a shortage, therefore, those desiring flags should try to get them at once and hang them out for the day of the game. The City of Fairmont has purchased 400 of these flags and employees of the municipality will begin coloring the town this evening.

## The Weather.

Western Pennsylvania—Cloudy Tuesday and Wednesday probably snow north, rain south. Warmer tonight in northwest.

West Virginia—Rain this afternoon and tonight; warmer east portion; Wednesday partly cloudy.

## STRIKE RIOT CASES COME UP FRIDAY

Judge W. S. Haymond Adjourns Court Over Thanksgiving Day.

The trials of Joseph Parise and Cosimo Spadaro, on charges of first degree murder are scheduled for Friday before Judge W. S. Haymond in Circuit, the petit jurors having been dismissed late yesterday afternoon by Judge Haymond and ordered to report Friday.

Parise and Spadaro are two of the 134 men indicted for first degree murder as the result of strike riots in Farmington last spring during which Constable W. R. Riggs was killed and Sheriff C. D. Conaway and other officers seriously injured. About half of the men indicted have already been captured and tried, 25 of them having been sentenced to the penitentiary. Arthur G. Froe and Cafe Hart, attorneys from Welsh, W. Va., have been retained by Parise and Spadaro.

James Obie, a negro, pleaded guilty in Circuit court yesterday afternoon to maliciously shooting Mrs. Mary Coats, a negro. Obie was given the minimum sentence for the offense, two years in the penitentiary. Attorney Ernest R. Bell represented Obie and Prosecuting Attorney Tusca Morris, the state.

Jame Goodwin pleaded guilty to shooting Charles Clarke, and was sentenced to 12 months in county jail and to pay a fine of \$50. Good was represented by Attorney Walter Haggerty and the state by Prosecuting Attorney Tusca Morris.

## Frame to Manage Normal Tossers

The Normal School football team after closing a successful season will now go for basketball with Lindsey Frame as Manager. There will be a large number of youngsters report for practice from now on and it is thought that with the material at the command of Manager Frame there should be a representative team picked out of the bunch.

The team that the Normal had last year was a good one, and this year's five promises even better stuff than last year. The boys that went to High School last year and who furnished that school with all sorts of followers was broken up to a certain extent this year when some of the men graduated and went into Normal school.

The players that have requested a chance at the basket are Davis, Payne, Frame, Reed, Hartley, Hawkins and several more are expected in a day or two. The Normal team is going out for the State championship and will very likely play West Virginia University and West Virginia Wesleyan.

## Mrs. Clark Steele Dies Near Bula

Information was received here today of the death of Mrs. Clark Steele, wife of Dr. Clark Steele, which occurred yesterday at her home near Bula, Monongalia County. Mrs. Steele was about 40 years of age and was well known in the community in which she resided. She is survived by her husband and two small children.

**BIGGEST ON RECORD.**  
The financial statement of the B. & O. Railroad, issued Monday, shows the largest gross business ever made by the company in its history, during a single month. The amount was \$10,004,431, which is an increase over the corresponding month of last year of \$2,048,737. The net earnings for the month were \$3,180,000, or an increase of \$1,958,030 over the month of October, 1914.

**CASE DISMISSED.**  
Grace Litt, "Widow Bill" Burleson, Pasquale Kaputa and Andrew Kunkin, all of North Dakota, arrested on charges of disorderly conduct growing out of an alleged fight over a pig pen, were dismissed at a hearing last evening by Justice of the Peace R. Leigh Fleming. The complaint had been made by Andrew Kilinger.

## Amusements Today

(See advertisements on page 7.)  
**COLONIAL**  
The Broken Coin  
**GRAND**  
The Dictator  
**PRINCESS**  
The Land of the Lost  
**HIPPODROME**  
Musical Comedy and Pictures  
**DIXIE**  
House of a Thousand Candles  
**IDEAL**  
Alice of Hudson Bay  
**NELSON**  
The Morning After

## OLD FASHIONED WARFARE ON BALKAN RIDGES AND PLAINS

### Seven Killed, 42 Injured on a Circus Train

All The Show Animals and Six of the Human Victims Burned.

(By Associated Press.)  
COLUMBUS, Ga., Nov. 23.—Seven persons at least were killed and 42 injured near here last night when a circus train collided head on with a passenger train on the Central of Georgia railroad. Six persons burned to death and a seventh died in the hospital.

All the dead were members of the Kennedy Carnival Company which was traveling on a train of 28 cars. None of the injured will die.

All the show animals burned to death and there is possibility that several of the show men of whom no record was kept were also lost.

### Do Thanksgiving Buying This Way

The West Virginian has made it comparatively easy for Fairmonters to do their Thanksgiving buying. Much of the hustle and bustle of "shopping" and the resultant "tired out" feeling that usually follows a round at the market houses can be escaped very easily.

Page ten of this evening's West Virginian contains the advertisements of merchants who are alive and awake to your demands for Thanksgiving, and have prepared for them as they tell you in their advertisements.

Whether you want a big fat turkey, a goose, a duck or just a chicken, the Thanksgiving Market Page points you to the place you can get what you want. A careful perusal of its contents will be a profitable investment for you.

### Dance for Members of Normal Eleven

The Fairmont Normal football team will leave Friday night for Keyser where they meet the Keyser Prep team Saturday afternoon. After the game Saturday the players will be entertained at a dance to be given by the Prep boys, who, even they were in Fairmont were signally defeated on the South Side grounds. The game is a return match and will be hotter than the game which was staged here for the reason that Frame will be out of the lineup and the teams thereby put on a more evenly matched basis.

## BUSINESS MEN TO MEET DECEMBER 2

Banquet at Y. M. C. A. Dining Rooms Will Precede Business Session.

On Thursday evening at 6 o'clock, December 2, there will be held the next quarterly meeting of the Business Men's Association. The business meeting will be preceded by a banquet, and the dining rooms of the Y. M. C. A. have been engaged for the purpose. The catering will be handled by an organization of the M. E. Church South.

Several out-of-town speakers are being arranged for by Secretary Nutter of the Association. Notices will be sent to the members of the Association informing them of the meeting and a full attendance is assured.

The December meeting is usually of much interest because it is held at the beginning of the holiday season, and plans for the Association work of the winter are to be formulated.

Just what matters will be considered is as yet undetermined, but several things of vital interest to the business men of Fairmont will be taken up.

**NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS.**  
Discount on City Taxes expires on November 30th.  
Office Monroe Street. Open from 7 to 9 p. m.  
J. R. MILLER, Treasurer.

## NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

The discount period ends Nov. 30th, 1915, and all persons wishing to take advantage of same are requested to pay at once and avoid the rush that always happens during the last days of discount. Office open evenings.  
C. D. CONAWAY, Sheriff.

### Artillerymen Can Actually See Works They Aim At.

## ARMIES CAMP IN OPEN

No Air Attacks And Men Can Live Above Ground.

French headquarters, Kavar, Serbia, Nov. 20.—Courier to Salonika, Nov. 22, via Paris, Nov. 23.—A sanguinary battle between the French and Bulgarians in the gorge of the Rajec River, southeast Serbia, has resulted in the retirement of the French from a point north of Drenovo to the right bank of the Cerna.

The French are holding the Rajec gorge and the important bridge head at Bolharsti, controlling the heights opposite the Gradiska.

The Associated Press Correspondent today visited French posts west of the Rajec bridge head which is detailed to guard the strong natural position in the granite-walled gorge. The gorge is exposed to artillery fire from the surrounding heights. Through it runs a stream held by infantry.

Half an hour later the Correspondent with a party of picked soldiers watched the battle from neighboring hills. Every detail was visible except during periods of lowering mists from the hills.

Hostilities opened with a Slavish artillery duel. From the point of observation flames and smoke could be seen revealing the position of the armies on both sides of the Vardar River which is joined by the Cerna a few miles north of Drenovo. Clouds of smoke from bursting shells gave some idea of the result of the fire from Rajec gorge. Shrapnel was successful in the gorge several times.

Soon the whirl of machine guns and the popping of rifles betrayed the position of the Bulgarian infantry.

On a hill behind figures could be seen climbing against the sky. They climbed with what seemed to be interminable slowness until, after a brief struggle with bayonets, the Bulgarians fled, disappearing over the crest.

The Bulgarians are bringing up a large force from the neighborhood of Prilep. The French plan of campaign seems to have been to occupy as quickly as possible the maximum number of positions or natural strength and to take care of their communications as effectively as could be done with the forces available.

When one position thus held is made the object of a serious attack, the French withdraw as the complete lack of effective means of transportation renders the rapid shifting of troops from one position to another impracticable.

A striking feature of the campaign in Serbia is its utter unlikeliness to that in France. Trenches are constructed for temporary use in actual battle. The broken country facilitates the employment of practical skill in which the French seem to be superior to the Bulgarians, notwithstanding their lack of familiarity with the country.

Neither battlefields nor encampments resemble those in France. Soldiers camp in tents on the open plains as the Bulgarians thus far have not employed aeroplanes. The camps are changed frequently to keep pace with the movement of the battle line.

Artillerymen for the first time since the beginning of the war often have opportunity of actually seeing marks at which they are aiming. The famous French 3-inch gun firing almost with the rapidity of machine guns is inflicting extraordinary havoc on the Bulgarians.

French aviators are enjoying the opportunity presented by the lack of Bulgarian air guns of flying low over the positions of their opponents and actually photographing them with such details as to reveal the number and location of the hostile forces.

The Serbians in the north are said to be concentrating on the historic Kosovo plain with the idea of attempting an offensive in the direction of Uskub. It is reported that six divisions will debouch from the plain by way of the Katchank and Cortjevo passes.

The Bulgarians are withdrawing hastily from the Cripet region.

A decisive battle is looked for.

**FINED \$1.**  
John Martin and James Berger, negroes, of Grant Town, were fined \$1 and costs each on charges of drunkenness last evening by Justice of the Peace M. R. Musgrove after which they were placed under arrest on warrants charging violation of the Yost prohibition law. They gave bonds for their appearance for trial Saturday morning. The arrests were made by Constable Harry Connor.